

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER
U. S. WEATHER BUREAU
Dec. 6, 1917—Last (twenty-
four hours) Halifax, N.S.
Temp. Min. 59; Max. 74.
Weather, cloudy.

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HONOLULU, HAWAII TERRITORY.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1917.—SEMI-WEEKLY.

Transfer
JAN 9 1917

LATEST CABLED SUGAR QUOTATIONS
Cents Dollars
80° Centrifugal N. Y. per lb. per ton
Prime, Hawaiian basis... 6.72 \$134.40
Low previous quote... 6.00 \$120.00

CITY OF HALIFAX IS SHATTERED AND RIVEN BY GREAT EXPLOSIONS

DESTRUCTION AND DEATH FOLLOW ON SHIPS' COLLISION

Vessels Carrying Munitions
Meet; Known Dead More
Than Two Thousand

PROPERTY LOSS IMMENSE

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia, December 7.—(Associated Press)—Two thousand dead, many thousands injured and property destruction amounting to many millions are the result of a series of tremendous explosions due to the collision of two munition ships in the harbor here yesterday morning.

The force of the blast when the two munition carriers were blown into each other was terrific, while the first explosion was immediately followed by others as the munitions stored in great quantities in the waterfront warehouses were set off.

CITY ROCKED AND SMASHED

In the twinkling of an eye, Halifax was turned from its usual orderly quiet into a great inferno. Buildings rocked and collapsed, burying their occupants in tons of stone and bricks; schools crashed in and hundreds of children were crushed and mutilated out of all human semblance; the great Arena rink, being used as a military depot, fell in and scores were killed; the union depot swayed from the force of the shock to such an extent that its tower toppled, bringing down with it the heavy roof of the building; church steeples crashed into the streets, where terrified crowds stood petrified with the sudden terror. The military gymnasium was destroyed, with hundreds of the structures lining the harbor, including grain elevators and the sugar refinery.

CHILDREN AND WOMEN DIE

Children on the streets were dashed by the explosion against fences and telegraph poles and killed by the impact. Women were tossed about and fell screaming with broken limbs. In the harbor many members of the crews of vessels were smashed against railings or hurled overboard stunned, to drown helpless in the icy waters.

Trains waiting on the yard switches along a line of two miles were thrown off the rails and rolled about. Everywhere throughout the city the telephone, light and power wires went down. Docks and wharves were smashed and shaken.

FIRE ADDS TO DISASTER

Immediately following the explosions, fire broke out in a number of places throughout the wrecked sections of the city and the flames swept over two square miles before they had reached those sections where any effort to check them could be attempted. What buildings through the damaged section had withstood the force of the explosions were destroyed by the fire.

The most desperate efforts were made by the military and the citizens to effect rescues through the miles of blocked streets. All through the stricken section rose the cries of the wounded, praying that they might not be left to the flames. From the debris crawled thousands of injured ones, who lay in the open waiting for assistance, being unable to crawl over the great piles of wreckage that blocked every avenue. Thousands of rescues were made, but many hundreds of injured ones perished in the fire. Military patrols were at work all last night bringing the charred bodies from the ruins.

KNOWN DEAD NUMBER TWO THOUSAND

The estimate of the chief of police at midnight was that the known dead numbered upwards of two thousand.

Last night the agony of the city reached its climax. From the wasted districts a continuous line of vehicles brought injured ones to the temporary hospitals and the bodies of the dead to the temporary morgues. Through the hospitals and morgues filed other thousands, searching for relatives and friends. The most pitiful sights were about those morgues where the bodies of the fire victims were being laid out in long lines. Many of the corpses had been burned beyond any possible hope of recognition, but each charred fragment of humanity was scrutinized over and over again by fear-filled ones, dreading that they should find what they so earnestly sought.

Around the wrecked school buildings, far into the night, crowded wailing mothers and stricken fathers, while searchers among the ruins brought out the mangled forms of the children and teachers.

ALL BUSINESS CEASES

All business in the city was suspended at once when the explosion came, followed by the great fire. Streetcar service was impossible and the greater number of the available vehicles were commandeered by the military authorities, who assumed charge of the

HALIFAX HARBOR with City of Halifax in background. This is the appearance which the Canadian seaport presented yesterday prior to the collision of two munition ships and the subsequent explosions which rent and fired city and shipping.



Food Administrator Hoover Issues Earnest Appeal To All Patriotic Island Folk

WASHINGTON, December 6.—(Statements appearing in the Chicago press and widely circulated from parties interested in exploiting the sale of meat protesting against meatless and wheatless days as unnecessary sacrifices by the American public are either malicious or emanate from personal interest obviously endeavoring to raise the price of meat.)

"The results from meatless days, have for the first time created a sufficient visible supply of meat to allow us partially to comply with the demands we face and send overseas the quantities the Allies have asked us to ship in the month of December."

"It should be a matter of satisfaction to the entire American people that through their devotion in saving food and through their personal sacrifices the United States is enabled to meet this present demand. Our endeavors should in no instance be relaxed."

OTHER SHIPMENTS DEPEND ON SAVINGS

"The whole of the surplus of the 1917 harvest over and above the normal demands of our own population for the period up to the time when the 1918 harvest will be gathered has already been shipped overseas. These shipments have been so heavy that it has been necessary for the food administration to restrict further exports of wheat so as to retain in the United States sufficient supplies to carry our own people until the next harvest."

"For these reasons all exports of wheat from now on until the next harvest are limited entirely to the volume of saving made by the American people in their consumption of wheat and wheat products. Every bushel saved in the household and every bushel will mean that by that much may exports to the Allies be increased in the period between now and the next harvest."

"We are continuing wheat shipments for December as far as our situation allows, but even with all the conservation that has been practiced, greater sacrifices should be made. Greater saving of food is the urgent present need, for with all grain made available through the saving of the nation the supply needed falls short and we are still unable to provide the four hundred thousand tons of foodstuffs for which the call has been sent and which are most urgently required by the Allies during the month of December."

FALSE AND DANGEROUS PROPAGANDA

"Statements calculated to spread the belief that meatless and wheatless days mean an unnecessary sacrifice and propaganda designed to hamper or check the saving of food are false and dangerous. Such statements given out for personal interest or profit are in little accord with the spirit being shown in millions of homes in the United States in which serious patriotic endeavor is being made to hold up the hands of the food administration in its task of feeding our soldiers abroad as well as our Allies and in the task of stabilizing prices to our own people."

"No more foolish or unpatriotic utterance could be made than to say that meatless and wheatless days are unnecessary at this time. In the critical situation of the world's food supply today opposition to the government's conservation measures is an action comparable only to opposition to the draft because any failure in saving food now means the direct and immediate loss of life and it means as well serious interference with our war service in the feeding of the Allies."

The foregoing despatch from Herbert C. Hoover, food administrator of the United States, was sent as a wireless message to J. F. Child, Territorial food administrator, and received last night. The message makes clear what is expected of loyal citizens in these islands as well as on the mainland and what may be accomplished by earnest and faithful cooperation.

situation and instituted the work of fighting the fire and that of rescuing survivors.

When night fell the city was plunged in darkness, adding to the misery and confusion, while thousands tramped the streets, homeless and suffering from cold, despite every effort to make the temporary relief work cover the situation.

RELIEF HURRIED

From nearby Canadian and American cities relief trains have been started out, carrying supplies and clothes and bearing many doctors and nurses. The towns in the immediate neighborhood have already been able to reach here with help, which was sorely needed.

It is the northern end of the city which has suffered the greatest damage. The destruction zone centers on Richmond Street and covers an area of two square miles.

It has been impossible to secure any complete statement of the immediate cause of the disaster. The first reports state that vessels laden with high explosives collided, one ramming the other broadside as it emerged from its slip.

The detonations were so terrific that they were plainly felt throughout a circle of thirty miles, while at Truro, sixty-one miles away, the noise of the explosion was heard.

HALIFAX A GREAT SHIPPING CENTER

Halifax, which has a civilian population of nearly sixty thousand, is the capital of Nova Scotia and the principal seaport of the Province. It is noted for its fine harbor on Chebucto Bay, which, in peace time, has been the winter headquarters for the British North Atlantic squadron. The British navy maintains dry-

docks and repair and coaling stations there, while the only regular British troops in Canada, prior to the war, were garrisoned in this city.

The city is the Atlantic terminus of the Intercolonial Railroad and of the Canadian Pacific. From the outbreak of the war, Halifax has been the great shipping port for troops from Canada and India for Europe, while a large part of the exports from Canada and American points for England and France have been sent from this port. A recent issue of Collier's Weekly stated that American troops were also being put aboard transports here for overseas service.

FRENCH SHIPPING LOSSES

PARIS, December 7.—(Associated Press)—Six vessels of all descriptions were destroyed by enemy submarine warfare during the week which ended December 1. Two were of more than 1600 tons burden, two smaller merchant craft and two were fishing boats.

HOLY WAR AGAINST CHRISTIANS PART OF TEUTONIC PLOT

Prosecution At San Francisco
Produces Witness Who Tells
of Part He Played

UPRISINGS AGAINST BRITISH AND FRENCH

Muslims Were To Be Incited
Through Priests To Bring
About Serious Slaughter

SAN FRANCISCO, December 7.—(Associated Press)—German and pro-German conspirators did not stop at seeking to incite fanatical Hindus to rebellion and rapine and plunder, but their plans contemplated bloody massacres of all Christians in the British and French provinces was shown by the prosecution in evidence which was adduced yesterday in the prosecution of the case against the remaining defendants in the conspiracy case now on trial in the federal court.

New Line Opened

New lines of proof, even more startling than those which have been used heretofore in the prosecution of the alleged conspirators to violate the neutrality of the United States, were opened by the prosecution yesterday and the investigation of the charges assumed a much broader scope. The alleged conspiracy was approached from a new angle.

Slaughter of Christians

Dawes Ketter, called as a witness for the prosecution, told of the part which he had played to bring about a "holy war" by the Muslims upon the Christians. He testified that it was agreed that he should select a Mohammedan priest and of his choice of Jave who was to be sent to Berlin. From Berlin this priest was, he said, to proceed on to Constantinople, where he was to confer with the heads of the Mohammedan church in an effort to persuade them to incite the Muslims who were in British or French possessions to rise in a holy war against the Christians.

Seek Inside Information

Efforts made on behalf of the defense to secure information as to what testimony was to be given by the witnesses for the prosecution was also disclosed yesterday. A telephone operator was put on the witness stand by the prosecution. She testified that attempts had been made to use her to secure information, especially the names of witnesses of the prosecution, what their testimony was to be and what the government was seeking to prove.

BUSINESS GOOD EXCEPT IN CONSTRUCTION LINES

WASHINGTON, December 7.—(Associated Press)—Business is generally good throughout the country, is the report that was issued yesterday by the federal reserve banking board. An exception to this rule, however, is to be found in building and construction work in various parts of the country. This is dull because materials are scarce, difficult to obtain and high, and labor is short, with wages at abnormally large figures.

UNITED STATES WILL NOT WAIT FOR CALL BEFORE SENDING AID

WASHINGTON, December 7.—(Associated Press)—Plans of the United States for the immediate relief of the stricken city of Halifax are to go forward without waiting for any call for assistance to be issued. These were started immediately upon the receipt of advices of the disaster and have grown in scope as the magnitude of the calamity has become more fully known. The belief prevails that aid should be and will be rushed at once and not be held pending the issuance of a formal call.

UNITED STATES WAR SHIP RENDERS AID

WASHINGTON, December 7.—(Associated Press)—The number of killed in Halifax is unknown said advices received early this morning from the naval commander aboard the U. S. S. Barnmouth.

The navy department said that the figures mentioned in earlier despatches had been found impossible of verification by the commander who was a witness to the explosion. He proceeded into the harbor at once and has rendered all possible aid.

His despatch said that all of North Halifax is destroyed and that a number of ships had been sunk and many others damaged.

MASSED DRIVE AGAINST ITALY FAILS TO WIN LARGE RESULTS

Austro-Germans Redouble Efforts and Violent Battles Rage From Dawn Until Dark With Appalling Bloodshed

TEUTONS ARE REPULSED IN UPPER BRENTA VALLEY

General Byng Withdraws Without Discovery From Some Points in Cambrai Sector To Straighten and Strengthen Line

NEW YORK, December 7.—(Associated Press)—From dawn to dark yesterday there waged upon the Asiago Plateau a series of battles that were titanic in their violence and the tremendous forces that were thrown forward by the Austro-Hungarians against the Italian defenders. These attacks the Italians met with a defense that was all but impregnable. At a terrible cost a few small advantages were gained by the enemy and general results in this sector were undecided.

EFFORTS REDOUBLED

Preceded by a barrage of even more intense violence than that of Wednesday, the attacks of the Austro-German forces were started just after daylight. Massed forces so large as to make the former engagements in this sector seem insignificant rushed out and up toward the Italian lines. Their advance was met by a terrible metal hail from big guns, machine guns and rifles that tore great holes in the serried ranks of the advancing. These holes were filled by others who followed on and soon a hand to hand engagement was on.

GAINS ARE SLIGHT

After appalling losses the Austro-Germans fell back but throughout the day other similar attacks followed, now on one sector and now on another. Some slight advances were made in this way and Berlin official reports claimed the taking of 11,000 prisoners. Italian official reports asserted that the gains made were not of an importance to warrant the loss of man power that was inflicted upon the enemy.

ITALIAN VICTORY

If the result on the Asiago Plateau was indecisive or decisive only in small Teuton gains in the upper valley of the Brenta such was not the case. In that sector a strong massed assault was launched by the Teutons and this the Italians met successfully and repulsed with the infliction of terrible slaughter.

CAMBRAI SECTOR

On the Western front in the Cambrai sector General Byng withdrew from some points, retreating in perfect order and without the knowledge of Rupprecht's forces. This movement, it is explained, was made necessary as a result of some of the wedge like advances which the Germans succeeded in making last week in their turning movement and was for the purpose of straightening and strengthening the British lines of defense and offense.

In this sector Rupprecht continued his heavy bombardment and long after the British had left some of the positions from which it was deemed best

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